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PATENT APPLICATION  
DOCKET NO.: SolAqua - PAUS0001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: Robert E. Foster Et Al.

Filing Date: May 1, 2001

Serial Number: 09/845,359

Group Art Unit: 1764

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
SOLAR DISTILLATION

Examiner: Virginia Manoharan

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby discloses to the Office the item identified in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). The item is a U.S. patent listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

One copy of the listed item is submitted herewith.

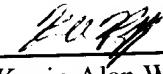
The item identified in this IDS may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. The submission thereof by Applicants is not to be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h)) or qualifies as "prior art" under 37 C.F.R. § 102 with respect to the invention, unless specifically designated by the Applicants as such.

This IDS is being filed after the later of three months from the filing date and the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier). Further, Applicants note that the reference was cited by the same Examiner

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in a Search Report dated August 13, 2002 for corresponding Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application PCT/US02/11863, and the Examiner indicated this reference as relevant to all claims therein (claims 1-22 the same as the present application). The Applicants believe that this reference must therefore have been inadvertently missed in the search listing for examination of the present application. Under such circumstances, the Applicants believe that no Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e) or fee is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). However, if the Office disagrees, then it is requested that the Office consider this IDS as filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) and notify the undersigned of the fee being due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: April 2, 2003